

REMARKS

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 5-18 and 23-29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Japanese Patent No. 06-062400 issued to Ogata et al. (*Ogata*), in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,884,257 issued to Maekawa et al. (*Maekawa*). Claims 7-8, 15-18, and 23-28 have been canceled. Thus, the rejection of these claims is moot. Claims 30-34 have been added. For at least the reasons set forth below, Applicant submits that claims 5-6, 9-14, and 29-34 are not rendered obvious in view of *Ogata* and *Maekawa*.

Independent claim 5 recites, in part, the following:

a speaker identification subsystem to determine whether a conferee is speaking based, at least in part, on whether visual lip movements of said conferee are reasonably consistent with an audio signal from a conference station in which said conferee is located, **the subsystem also to determine which of the conferees is speaking the loudest when multiple conferees are speaking simultaneously.**

Independent claims 11, 14, 30, and 31 recite similar limitations.

The Office action cites *Ogata* and *Maekawa* as disclosing the limitations of the independent claims. Specifically, *Ogata* is cited as disclosing to identify the presence or absence of speech of each participant according to the voice level of the conference participant. See Abstract. Whether or not *Ogata* actually teaches this limitation, *Ogata* does not teach or disclose to **determine which of the conferees is speaking the loudest when multiple conferees are speaking simultaneously.** *Maekawa* does not cure the deficiencies of *Ogata*. Therefore, the applicant submits that the combination of *Ogata* and *Maekawa* does not render claims 5, 11, 14, 30, and 31 obvious.

Claims 6, 9-10 and 29 depend from claim 5. Claims 12 and 13 depend from claim 11. Claims 32-34 depend from claim 31. Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6, 9-10, 12-13, 29, and 32-34 are not rendered obvious by *Ogata* and *Maekawa* for at least the reason that dependent claims include the limitations of the claims from which they depend. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 5-6, 9-14, and 29-34 are not rendered obvious by *Ogata* and *Maekawa*.

Conclusion

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant submits that the rejections have been overcome. Therefore, claims 5-6, 9-14, and 29-34 are in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned by telephone if such contact would further the examination of the present application.

Please charge any shortages and credit any overcharges to our Deposit Account number 02-2666.

Respectfully submitted,
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Date: _____

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